

Remarks

As per the Amendment filed on December 12, 2006, reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 6-17, 19, 25, 27-30, 40-44, 46-51, 53, 74-85, 87, 90-93 and 95-98 are pending in the application claims 6, 25, 40, 74 and 90 being the independent claims. Claims 18, 22-24, 26, 31-34, 45, 52, 56-64, 67-68, 86, 94, 101-105 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. No new claims are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Per the preceding amendment, within the "Amendments to the Claims," claims that have been withdrawn include the text of the original claims. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. § 1.121). Accordingly, Applicants request entry of the above amendment prior to examination, and entry of the amendments filed on December 12, 2006.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 103-105 have been objected to because of informalities. These claims have been cancelled, rendering the objections moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-10, 22, 40-44, 56, 74-78, 90 and 103 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,430,607 ("Kavner Patent") Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 18, which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, independent claim 6 is allowable over the Kavner Patent.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 40 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 52, which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, independent claim 6 is allowable over the Kavner Patent.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 74 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 86, which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matters. For at least this reason, independent claim 74 is allowable over the Kavner Patent.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 90 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 94, which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matters. For at least this reason, independent claim 90 is allowable over the Kavner Patent.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 25, 29-30, 33, 59, 63-64, 67, 93, 97-98, and 101 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,571,706 ("Land Patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 25 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 26, which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter. For at least this reason, independent claim 25 is allowable over the Land Patent. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-14, 16-17, 23-24, 45-48, 50-51, 57-58, 79-82, 84-85, 91-92 and 104 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kavner Patent in view of the Land Patent. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 15, 49, and 83 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kavner Patent in view of the Land Patent as applied to claim 12, and further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,470,008 ("Khuc Patent"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 28, 62, 96 and 105 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Land Patent in view of the Kavner Patent. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 34, 68, 96 and 102 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Land Patent in view of the Khuc Patent. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Because each dependent claim incorporates all of the elements of the independent claim from which it depends, as well as additional features, the above arguments made with respect to independent claim 6, 25, 40, 74 and 90 apply a fortiori to claims 7-17, and 19, which depend on claim 6; claims 27-30, which depend on claim 25; claims 41-44 and 46-51, which depend on claim 40; claims 75-85 and 87, which depend on claim 74; and claims 91-93 and 95-98, which depend on claim 90. For at least this reason, dependent claims 7-17, 19, 27-30, 41-44, 46-51, 75-85, 87, 91-93, and 95-98 are also patentable. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

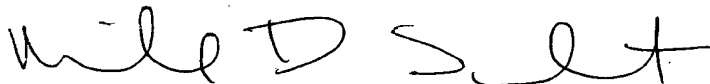
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Specht", written in a cursive style.

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